



THE BRIDGE

Operating with a Mission

The strong stewardship of the Village Board has led to a solid and stable fiscal standing for the Village, operating under a limited government model that efficiently serves 8,366 residents and five business districts. As a municipal leader in sustainability, the Village is often ranked as one of the best places to live in Illinois, with its protected conservation areas, large forested lots, top-rated schools, and low crime rates. The Village works diligently to preserve its historic community character, and unlike most other municipalities, it is not dependent on property taxes. Instead, the Village provides services with a mission focus that carefully balances deliberate budget planning with low levels of spending.

As a full-service municipality run by a small staff of five employees, the Village utilizes sales tax revenues generated from Long Grove-based businesses to help cover costs for the many services provided to residents and the community, including engineering, legal, accounting, technology, law enforcement, road paving and improvements, snow plowing, and more. The majority of services are provided through intergovernmental partners and private-sector contractors, all of which embrace the same fiscal responsibility and effectiveness in the delivery of high-quality services.

The Ela Township Highway Department is one of the intergovernmental partners

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From the Village President



Bill Jacob
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I hope that you are staying well and had a wonderful 4th of July holiday. It was also a positive that Chocolate Fest returned to its normal format this year considering the last two years, even though the weather did not fully cooperate.

After taking a year off due to the pandemic, the Village recently resumed the annual HOA Presidents meeting. I established this after becoming Village President to share Village updates, best practices on road paving, conservancy maintenance and more – as well as to facilitate networking amongst our HOA leaders who serve a vital role in Long Grove. The meeting was well attended, and I appreciated Woodfire Tavern for hosting us in their banquet room. I want to thank our Scenic Corridor Conservancy Commission Chair Jeannette Berger and Village Engineer Geoff Perry for the information that they shared, and a big thank you to all who volunteer to serve on their HOA boards.

During Memorial Day weekend, the Long Grove - Kildeer Garden Club hosted an event at Buffalo Creek Park to unveil the newly installed BlueStar Memorial marker they obtained. The marker is partially visible from outside the park as you approach the Village Tavern going south on Old McHenry. The Blue Star program honors all men and women that serve in our armed forces and is run by the National Council of State Garden Clubs. I want to thank the Long Grove – Kildeer Garden Club for putting this together, and all who participated in the ceremony, including the Long Grove Park District, Long Grove Fire Protection District and Long Grove Community Church, Ela Township Highway Department, Scout Troop 79, VFW Post 981 and American Legion Post 208 from Arlington Heights.

It was great to see that due to good planning, we were able to get a jump on our road paving this year, which is nearing completion. We have now repaved 70% of our Village-owned roads in the past eight years without levying a property tax, a milestone I am very proud of.

Additional trees in the Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve along Checker Road have also been planted, and once mature, will provide additional screening desired by the neighboring residents. Completion of this project was a collaborative effort and funded one third each by the Country Club Estates HOA, the Village of Long Grove and the Lake County Forest Preserve.

Enjoy the summer!

Village President - *Bill Jacob*

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Operating with a Mission

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that provides services for public roads in Long Grove, including replacement of street signs, filling potholes, setting up barricades for festivals, trimming trees, and clearing culverts along right-of-ways. In addition, Ela Township assists the Village with various building construction and maintenance projects, and offers to do inspections, layouts and other consulting and engineering support, as needed.

If residents have questions or comments, or would like more information about the various services provided by the Village, please contact Village Hall at 847-634-9440 weekdays from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Village Road Resurfacing Program

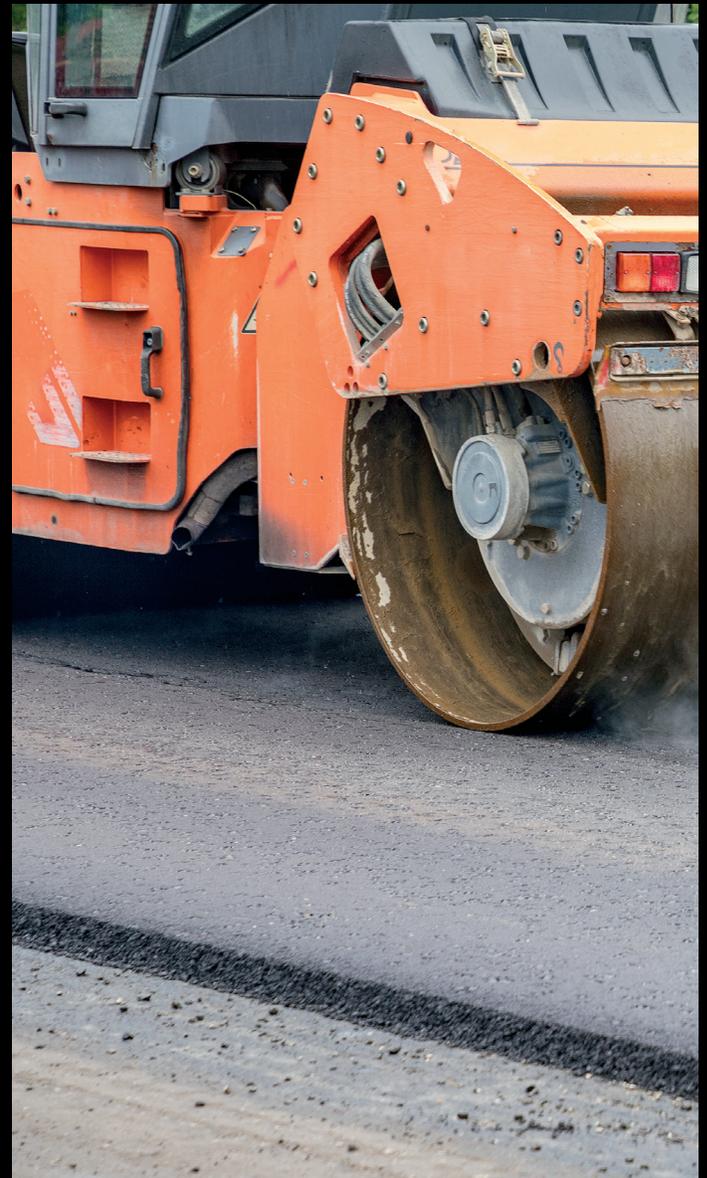
A unique network of state, county, local and private roadways criss-crosses the 12.67 square-mile area of the Village of Long Grove. Currently, the Village is in the midst of a 15-year road program, which was initiated in 2015 with the goal of resurfacing all 29 miles of Village-owned roads. The Motor Fuel Tax Fund is a major source of funding for road improvements.

the Village are owned and maintained by homeowner associations or individual homeowners.



This year's planned road projects were completed on schedule in May and June, advancing the road program to 70% completion, which is ahead of the 15-year plan. Chickamauga Lane has been fully resurfaced, and the contractor has completed installation of new pavement on Oak Grove Circle, Oak Grove Drive and Port Clinton Road.

The remaining public roads in the Village are managed by various agencies. The Illinois Department of Transportation owns and maintains Routes 22, 53, 60, 83, and portions of Midlothian Road within the Village. The Lake County Division of Transportation owns and maintains Gilmer Road, Old McHenry Road and Diamond Lake Road. All private roads throughout



RECYCLING GUIDELINES

YES!



METAL
Steel & aluminum
containers and foil



PAPER
Cardboard (flattened),
office paper, newspaper, magazines



**FOOD &
BEVERAGE
CARTONS**



GLASS
Bottles & jars only



PLASTIC
Bottles, tubs,
& jugs only

**Clean &
Empty**
LEAVE CAPS
& LIDS ON

NO!



**Do Not Bag
Recyclables**



**No Plastic Bags
or Product Wrap**
Return clean
to retailer



No Tangles
Hangers, hoses,
wire, cords,
ropes or chains



**No Food, Liquid,
Diapers, Batteries,
or Needles**



No Big Items
Electronics, wood,
propane tanks, scrap
metal or styrofoam

For other options,
visit swalco.org for
our online "Where Do
I Recycle This?" guide



**No Clothing,
Textiles or Shoes**
Visit swalco.org for a list
of Clothing & Textile or
Reuse-A-Shoe collection
drop-off sites

To find out more about recycling in Lake County, Illinois, or what you can do with items not accepted in your recycling cart (including other recycling and reuse programs), visit swalco.org or contact SWALCO at 847-377-4950.



Safety Reminders: Free File of Life Cards Available



Seconds count when an ambulance is dispatched to a home after a medical alert button has been activated. Emergency responders need to assess the situation and get answers to questions before they begin medical treatment – but what if the patient is unconscious or unable to communicate?

Emergency calls to 911 are not uncommon amongst the elderly population, according to Long Grove Fire Protection District (LGFPD) Battalion Chief John Jaworski. “These medical emergencies may be filled with feelings of panic, confusion and helplessness, and exchanging information is sometimes challenging under these circumstances.”

Both the LGFPD and the Countryside Fire Protection District (CFPD) participate in the national File of Life program, where fire protection districts and other organizations provide free medical-information kits to residents in the community. Homeowners record medical history, medications, allergies, family contact information and more on a card that is kept in a noticeable location, such as on a refrigerator. Medics check for the card when they arrive at a location where a patient is unconscious or unresponsive. Finding the needed medical history information quickly aids in the treatment process and can save valuable time.

Free File of Life packets are available to all residents. Contact the LGFPD at 847-634-3143 or CFPD at 847-367-5511 for more information.

History Corner Long Grove Then and Now: The Covered Bridge



The iconic Robert Parker Coffin Bridge in downtown Long Grove has a very storied history, dating back to its origins in the late 1840s as a one-lane wooden bridge spanning Buffalo Creek. It was later replaced in the early 1900s with an iron truss structure to support the increasing volume of traffic as automobiles became popular. In 1972, the Village added a wooden cover to protect the bridge’s iron trusses, and then-Village President Robert Parker Coffin chose a famous New England bridge as a model for the design. The bridge became an enduring symbol of the Village’s rural identity and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2018. The Village made major renovations in 2020 to preserve the trusses and bridge abutments, as well as to install a new wooden cover with hidden reinforcing steel beams - to strengthen and protect the single-lane bridge from traffic strikes. Since then, the bridge has unfortunately been struck a number of times and made the local news. Fortunately, any damages from these strikes have been only cosmetic and the bridge remains *‘the mighty little bridge that could.’*



Maria Rodriguez Was an Inspiration to All Who Knew Her

There are some people who have an innate ability to connect with others. It just takes one conversation for them to be a friend. They walk into a room and instantly light up people's day. They inspire, uplift, and help others strive to be the best they can be.

Maria Rodriguez was one of those people. Her impressive life and career in public service saw her become a loving wife and mother, leader in Long Grove, candidate for lieutenant governor and Congress, author, and motivational speaker. Along the way, she lit up countless rooms, inspired untold numbers of friends, and served as an example anyone would be proud to live up to.

Maria passed away Oct. 19, 2021, at age 62 following a battle with cancer. Known as a devoted public servant, motivational speaker, and dedicated wife and mother, she left behind a legacy that reached farther and touched more lives than she could have ever expected.

"Throughout her entire life, she was an inspirational person that just exuded hope, no matter what the circumstance," said Kathy Jirak, a lifelong friend of Maria's. "And she wasn't a foolish optimist. Maria was fearless in so many ways."

Maria is survived by her husband, Ray; their three children, Leah, Raymond Jr., and Sophia; and grandchildren, Dean and Dylan.

'She Was All-In'

Long Grove is forever changed because of Maria's influence. It was during her tenure as village president, from 2005-2013, that Long Grove secured its first grocery store and shopping center in Sunset Grove.

"But for Maria and her tenacity, it would not have happened," said Village Trustee Bobbie O'Reilly. "It was a tax generator. It kind of goes hand in hand with the downtown of Long Grove. It's very important to the village. It was a real asset."

Lori Lyman, a friend of Maria's since the 1990s and a village trustee from 2013-2017, agreed Sunset Foods was one of Maria's crowning achievements. She also credited Maria with laying the groundwork for bringing water service into Long Grove's downtown area and facilitating future economic development, ensuring Maria's influence will be felt for years to come as the village continues to evolve.

"I don't think there's been a harder-working president in



Long Grove," Lyman said. "She was at every festival ... if there was an event in downtown Long Grove, she was all-in. Everybody loved her. She really walked the walk."

Maria was not just village president, however. Her involvement spanned decades. She first began working for the village as its clerk in 1993, a position she stayed in until she was elected village trustee. She served on the village board from 1994-1997 until she returned as president in 2005.

"Long Grove was her home, and Long Grove was everything to her," Lyman said. "Being part of the community was important."

A Unique Type of Leader

Throughout her time as an elected official in the village, Maria embodied dignity and a measured demeanor. She did not hold grudges, and by all accounts, she never spoke ill of political opponents, always taking all views into consideration.

Jeff Braiman, village president of neighboring Buffalo Grove

from 2011-2015, witnessed this firsthand. For decades, the relationship between Long Grove and Buffalo Grove was less than cordial, according to Braiman, but that gradually changed as new officials were elected in each. He said Maria was among those newer officials who greatly improved relations between the village boards.

“It just tells you the type of person she was,” Braiman said. “She was just more concentrated on the issue, more concentrated on what her intent was and not getting into the dirty part of politics.”

Braiman worked most closely with Maria when they both were on the Illinois Route 53/120 Blue Ribbon Advisory Council in 2012 that oversaw the extension of Route 53 through central Lake County. Braiman recalled at first being unsure about what to think about serving on the council with Maria, because many in Long Grove opposed the project while many in Buffalo Grove were supportive.

Braiman said Maria took a measured approach while the council met, genuinely considering both sides of the issue.

“Maria was outspoken and an advocate for both sides, and very, very interested in trying to come up with viable solutions and inclusions to make it the best possible suggestion,” Braiman said. “She was a really valuable member of that commission and offered a lot of good suggestions. It wouldn’t have been as potent if it wasn’t for her involvement.”

Bringing People Together

Maria’s influence stretched far and wide. She was a well-known networker and top-notch entertainer, frequently throwing elaborate parties such as the annual Lions Club Christmas party. A woman of devout faith, she also was enormously involved in her church, St. Mary Parish, where she served as liturgical coordinator.

But it was in her interpersonal relationships that she truly shone. It did not take long for those who met her to become her friend, and she would quickly find ways to bring out the best in people.

“You met her and you felt like you’d known her all your life,” O’Reilly said. “She was just such a sparkling person. I had this feeling about her from the very beginning, that I know and love this person.”

Lyman, a landscape architect, first met Maria in the early 1990s when Maria hired Lyman for landscaping. A few years later, in 1994, Lyman bought property near Maria and

the two reconnected.

Almost instantly—years before Lyman even moved into her new home, in 2000—Maria got Lyman involved in the community. In 1996, Maria recruited Lyman for a beautification project at Kildeer Countryside Elementary School. In 2002, just two years after Lyman moved to Long Grove, Maria encouraged Lyman to join the village’s Architectural Review Board, which she ended up serving on until 2008. And it was Maria who urged Lyman to run for village board.

“Four years before we moved here, Maria had me involved in the schools,” Lyman said. “She saw people’s strength. Maria had such a huge network because she was so highly liked and revered, and she just had this wonderful personality to seek out people, bring their strengths, and put them to good work in the community.”

Getting Women Involved

Maria tried to take her talents to Washington, D.C., and Springfield, running for Congress in 2010 and lieutenant governor in 2014. She retired from politics after the 2014 campaign, but she used her experiences to inspire a new generation of women leaders.

After leaving politics, Maria rededicated herself to getting others involved in their community. In 2016, she founded The Leader Is You, an organization meant to inspire women to run for office. She used the organization to launch a career in public speaking. In 2018, she released her first book, “Run Jane Run...We Need You in Office!: Why Women Are a Natural for Politics and How to Get More of Them Elected.”

“Maria felt that women have talents that are somewhat different from men, that it can be such a great balance in a male-dominated environment,” Jirak said. “If you were a mom and you could manage the life of multiple individuals in your home with grace and developing your children to be thoughtful, kind citizens, then you had what it takes to be a leader in politics. She wanted to encourage and embolden women to give it a go.”

Jirak said Maria had been passionate about encouraging women to enter politics for almost two decades before her book finally released. Jirak recalled Maria first raising the idea of a book while the two were on vacation in Florida in the early 2000s. The idea kept coming up for years until Maria finally released “Run Jane Run.”

“I remember just the passion she had for getting that done—it never waned. It was always there,” Jirak said. “And I think

of that as the passion she had for life and serving people. It just burned in her.”

Like Lyman, Jirak became a leader after being inspired by Maria. When Jirak moved to North Carolina, she decided to run a local program called Moving On After Moving In, which offers support to women after relocations.

Perhaps most surprising about Maria’s accomplishments is that she achieved them all—politics, inspirational speaking, leadership—despite being terrified of public speaking, Jirak said. She did it not out of blind ambition or ego, but as a genuine way to serve others because it is what she felt she needed to do, Jirak said.

“There are people that are just not afraid of anything because they’re super confident,” Jirak said. “I don’t think Maria was that way. I think she just pushed herself hard to try despite being afraid.”

A Life of Adventure

Though Maria’s life was cut short by her illness, she filled her time with unique experiences and adventures. Beyond her political career, she was an accomplished runner with a marathon under her belt, a shepherd to a pack of alpacas, and a beekeeper.

Almost invariably, Maria embarked on her adventures because of sudden callings, not because of long-brewing plans. For example, what started as a hobby with alpacas grew into a business, with Maria and her husband selling the animals or shearing them and providing fur to co-ops.

That sense of adventure and openness is what runs through virtually every memory Maria’s friends and colleagues recall about her. From her involvement in local and state politics to her dedication to her friends and family, everything came from a genuine, organic place.

“She had no idea her life would lead her to politics, writing a book, doing a marathon,” Lyman said. “She didn’t set goals like ‘That’s what I’m going to do.’ It was just an evolution of who she was and how popular she became in such a heartfelt and unassuming way.”

Those who loved Maria, while dismayed that she was taken so soon, take comfort in knowing she lives on through the countless people she was acquainted with. Her funeral, attended by a massive crowd, was a testament to that.

“Her light did not go out,” Jirak said. “It just got passed. It got shared.”

Long Grove-Kildeer Garden Club Holds Annual Garden Walk

The Long Grove-Kildeer Garden Club will hold their annual Garden Walk on Friday, July 22, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. This always popular event is a great opportunity to get up close and personal with a few of the area’s beautiful private gardens. These personal landscapes will inspire you with ideas for your own garden. This year, the tour includes several gardens in and around Long Grove and Kildeer, followed by a box lunch (optional) at Heron Creek Forest Preserve in Long Grove.

The club’s annual Garden Walk started about 20 years ago, and was originally a members-only event. Over time, it opened to the public with over 100 attendees. The Garden Walk is the club’s second largest fundraiser, and it’s still a bargain at \$30, including a gourmet box lunch. If you don’t want a box lunch, the cost is only \$20.

Attendees meet at Heron Creek Forest Preserve, 22890 N. Old McHenry Road in Long Grove, at 9 a.m., to pick up their information packet. Then, they go off and enjoy the gardens at their own pace. It usually takes about three to four hours. Finally, they return to Heron Creek for a delicious box luncheon catered by Sunset Foods. For reservations and to make your lunch selection, contact Ellen Glassman at 847-287-9394 or ladyeglass@gmail.com. Reservations must be made by Wednesday, July 13.



SUSTAINABILITY CORNER:

It's Time to Fight Invasive Species!

Home gardening and landscaping is a valued outdoor pastime for residents, as is enjoying the beauty and tranquility of our local parks and preserves. Invasive plants, including buckthorn, teasel and garlic mustard, continue to be a serious threat to our treasured environments. If these species take hold and form monocultures, the Village may become involved to support efforts to eradicate them, including educating homeowners and providing community grants to homeowners associations (HOAs) and organizations such as the Long Grove Park District (LGPD).

Battling Buckthorn

Buckthorn is a highly invasive leafy shrub or small tree that works in many ways to degrade the environment. Buckthorn has an extended growing season and has dense foliage that chokes out growth of native shrubs and trees. Its growth creates inhospitable soil for neighboring plants and its seeds are dispersed rapidly by birds and wildlife, while providing little to no nutritional value. A number of chemical and non-chemical control methods are available for combating buckthorn. In areas where buckthorn hedges are not yet dense, small seedlings and trees can be pulled by hand. Mowing can be an option for dense undergrowth areas. After mowing, resprouts and new growth will occur, so monitor the area and conduct follow-up treatments, as needed. Some areas may require a combination of mowing and chemicals. Buckthorn can be controlled by using herbicides that contain glyphosate, such as Roundup; please be careful when applying, as glyphosate is a non-selective chemical that will kill or injure most green-leaved plants. Use caution when handling herbicides and use only when necessary. Follow label directions carefully, wear recommended protective clothing, and avoid contact with non-target plants.



Tenacious Teasel

This year, as in previous years, the Village has awarded the LGPD a \$10,000 grant to control teasel along state, county



and Village roads within Long Grove. The LGPD contracted with a trained and licensed crew that uses backpack sprayers to apply the appropriate herbicide to teasel plants along public roadsides, with treatments continuing through the summer.

Homeowners and HOAs are urged to do the same on private properties by spot-spraying teasel with a 2,4-D herbicide, such as Weed-B-Gon. Please follow all herbicide label directions carefully – applications must be accurate and uniform. It's important to treat teasel before it flowers and drops its seed, usually in mid-summer. From July onward, focus on cutting the teasel seed heads before the seeds drop. Place the cut material carefully in waste bags, as seeds will survive in a home compost bin.

Aggressive Garlic Mustard

The LGPD is also treating garlic mustard, an invasive plant that, like teasel, can drop hundreds to thousands of seeds, which get carried by the wind and water to other areas. Garlic mustard has been found in local forest and nature preserves, as well as in lawns and gardens. Wildlife won't eat it, so there's nothing to keep it in check, except for human intervention.



Garlic mustard seriously upsets the ecosystem by smothering cultivated and native plants. It also releases biochemicals into the soil that prevent seeds of other species from germinating. Once garlic mustard takes over, native plant species and the wildlife that depend upon them go away. Garlic mustard plants that have started to grow stalks can be easily removed by hand pulling. Be sure to dispose of pulled plants in waste bags, since flowering plants may still form seeds even after being pulled. Herbicide treatments may be used in the fall, such as a 1 - 2% glyphosate solution. Always read and follow the herbicide label directions before initiating treatment.

More information on treating invasive plants can be found at longgroveil.gov/sustainability/page/invasive-plants and lgparks.org/education/invasive-species/.

Festival Season Continues!

Historic Downtown Long Grove's beloved annual festivals are returning! Here's a preview of some of the biggest events planned this season. Visit LongGrove.org for more details.

Vintage Days: August 6-7 The annual Vintage Days Festival hosted by the Historic Downtown Long Grove Business Association is a celebration that bridges yesteryear's vintage appeal with today's modern comforts. The weekend event will showcase all things vintage, reclaimed, hand-made, antique and repurposed in an open-air marketplace. It gives everyone, from the vintage collector to the vintage admirer, a plethora of enduring products that can't be found anywhere else! In addition to dozens of vendors, Vintage Days also features classic summertime drinks, treats, live music and family activities. Visit longgrove.org/festivals/vintage-days/.



Irish Days: September 3-5 All eyes will be smiling at Irish Days, the annual family-friendly celebration of Irish culture, music, food and beer. The cobblestone streets will be painted a fresh shade of green, and bagpipers, folk bands and Irish dancers will perform non-stop throughout downtown. In addition to authentic Irish food, drink and entertainment, highlights include the Irish Dog Beauty Contest and the Best-Looking Men's Legs in a Kilt contest! A Gaelic tent promoting Irish cultural awareness and merchants selling Irish-themed foods and goods round out this one-of-a-kind Labor Day weekend experience! Visit longgrove.org/festivals/irish-days/.



Apple Fest: September 23-25 The festival that is known to bring 'bushels of fun' to the Village will showcase hundreds of delicious apple-inspired treats for apple lovers of all generations. Other features include a vendor village, party bands, and timeless interactive games. Visit longgrove.org/festivals/apple-fest/.

Visit longgrove.org/events-festivals for more information.

Blue Star Memorial Unveiled on Memorial Day

On May 28, the Long Grove-Kildeer Garden Club hosted a dedication ceremony at Buffalo Creek Park to honor the men and women who fought and died defending our country, and those who currently serve in the Armed Forces. The ceremony featured the unveiling of a Blue Star Memorial Marker sponsored by the Garden Club in cooperation with the Long Grove Park District and the Village. The marker, based on the original blue star flag displayed in family homes of those serving, was developed in 1945 by National Garden Clubs, Inc., and is now a symbol in parks and along dedicated highways across the country.

Buffalo Creek Park was decked out in patriotic flags and bunting, with a newly planted garden of red, white and blue flowers for the memorial's permanent home. Among many moving speeches was one by 97-year-old Don Carter, who served in Normandy in WWII. Garden Club president Paula Van Singel shared her family's history of veterans, including her son who served in Iraq. A joint VFW and American Legion Color Guard presented the colors. Boy Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance and Long Grove Community Church pastor Dell Modder gave an invocation and benediction. Long Grove President Bill Jacob and Long Grove Park District President Jim Southwell also spoke. Blue Star Committee co-chair Marcy Trojak shared the history of the Blue Star Memorial, followed by the Long Grove Fire Protection District's unveiling of the Blue Star Memorial.

Be sure to visit the memorial plaque at Buffalo Creek Park on Old McHenry Road, next to the Village Tavern, to reflect and give thanks to those who sacrificed so much for our freedom.

The Long Grove-Kildeer Garden Club is a casual, friendly group of men and women ranging from novice to master gardeners. They meet the second Monday of each month at the Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Center at 3849 Old McHenry Road in Long Grove, unless there is a field trip scheduled. If you are interested in learning more about the club, please contact Paula Van Singel at 847-478-0000 or paulavanwatson1@gmail.com.



PRSTD STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
ALGONQUIN, IL
PERMIT #300



*****ECRWSS****

Postal Customer
Long Grove, IL 60047

Village Meetings

Board of Trustees
July 12, 2022
July 26, 2022
August 9, 2022
August 23, 2022

**Economic Development
Commission**
July 7, 2022
August 4, 2022

**Plan Commission and
Zoning Board of Appeals**
July 5, 2022
July 19, 2022
August 2, 2022
August 16, 2022

**Conservancy/Scenic Corridor
Committee**
July 20, 2022
August 3, 2022
August 17, 2022

Architectural Commission
July 18, 2022
August 15, 2022

Please visit
LongGrovelL.gov/meetings
for the most up-to-date meeting
information.

The above meeting schedule is current as of the publish
date of this newsletter.

Get Social With Long Grove

The Village recently launched two new social media pages to enhance communications and connect with more residents and stakeholders. The Village's public agency page on Nextdoor shares timely local news specifically with Long Grove residents - just visit Nextdoor.com and sign up for a free account (if you don't have one already) and search 'Village of Long Grove.' The Village also has an official Facebook page at facebook.com/VillageofLG where news and other information will be shared. For more information on other communications from the Village, including the bi-monthly newsletter, The Bridge, and the semi-monthly Enewsletter, visit longgroveil.gov/community.



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